

TROPICAL AMERICAN PLANTS, XIV

LOUIS O. WILLIAMS

Field Museum of Natural History

RONDELETIAE CENTRO-AMERICANAE

RONDELETIA BUDDLEIOIDES Benth. Pl. Hartw. 69. 1840.

The type specimen of this species is Hartweg 502. There is in Field Museum a photograph (F 30) of this collection which was in Berlin and a fragment from the same collection in the Delessert herbarium in Geneva. These records are quite sufficient to be sure what this Mexican plant is. The mass of material in our herbarium under this name is quite something else, although admittedly closely allied. The description of this species as well as the illustration for "Flora of Guatemala" is based on what seems to me to be typical material.

RONDELETIA MYRIANTHA var. ARMENTALIS L. Wms. var. nov.
A Rondeletia myriantha Standl. & Steyerl. differt folia subtus dense tomentosa; hypanthium non tomentosum; lobi calycis anguste triangulari acuti reflexi, glandula inconspicua in sinus loborum; stili inclusi; anthera leviter exserta.

Guatemala: flowers white, shrub to 12 feet high, moist sheltered calley, Nebaj, Depto. Quiche, alt. 5,600 feet, November 22, 1934, Skutch 1776 (type, F).

Rondeletia myriantha and the var. armentalis (one of a crowd) are each known to me by a single specimen. The differences are not great but there are several of them as indicated in the description; the leaves are more densely tomentose below but the hypanthium, while sparsely pubescent, is not tomentose; the calyx lobes are subequal, narrowly triangular and prominently reflexed and with a minute gland in the *sini* while in the species one lobe is much the largest and all are obtuse and the *sini* glandless. The style is included and the anthers partly exerted, the reverse of the situation in the species. Whether heterostyly may be represented in both varieties can not be told from the sparse material.

RONDELETIA RUBENS L. Wms. sp. nov. - Frutices graciles usque ad 4 m. Stipulae anguste lanceolatae acutae; folia subaequalia glabra elliptica vel elliptico-lanceolata acuminate; inflorescentia terminalis spica circinnato-paniculata multiflora 2-4 cm. lata; hypanthium sparse tomentosum; calyx 4-lobatum, lobi lanceolato-oblongi acuti intus glabri extus leviter tomentosi leviter inaequales; corolla rubens, tubus gracilis fere glabrus, lobi oblongo-ovati patentes; stylus bifidus; stamina 4 subexserta.

Slender shrubs to about 4 m. tall. Branches slender, tomentose but very soon glabrous; stipules narrowly lanceolate, acute, subauriculate at the base, about 7-8 mm. long; leaves opposite, subequal to prominently anisophyllous, glabrous, elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, with 8-10 pairs of secondary nerves, petiole to about 2 cm. long but mostly less than 1 cm. long; inflorescence a terminal circinnate-paniculate spike, many-flowered, up to 20 cm. long and 2-4 cm. broad, the ultimate divisions and hypanthia sparsely tomentose; hypanthium sparsely tomentose, about 1 mm. long; calyx 4-lobate, the lobes lance-oblong, acute, glabrous within, sparsely tomentose outside, slightly unequal, 0.5-0.7 mm. long; corolla red, the tube slender, nearly glabrous outside, 7-8 mm. long, the lobes oblong ovate, spreading, about 1.5 mm. long; style about 5 mm. long, bifid for 1 mm. and stigmatic; anthers inserted at the throat and slightly protruding, narrowly oblong, about 1.5 mm. long, filament very short.

Guatemala: shrub to 12 feet high, flowers red, open dicotyledonous woods, Nebaj, Dept. Quiché, alt. 6,000 feet, November 19, 1934, Skutch 1725 (type, F).

A montane species related to Rondeletia gracilis but easily distinguished by the longer and narrower stipules, the long but broader and more open inflorescence, the plant glabrous except in the ultimate divisions of the inflorescence, the habitat in the high cool montane forests.

RONDELETIA SILVICOLA L. Wms. sp. nov. - Frutices graciles vel arbusculae usque ad 8 m. Ramuli teretes graciles floccosi mox glabrescentes; folia elliptica oblanceolato-elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica longe acuminata leviter anisophylla subtus leviter arachnoideo-floccosa, petioli inaequales obscure floccosi; inflorescentiae terminales spicatae multiflorae; flores rubentes; hypanthium floccosum; calyx 4-lobatum, lobi angusti triangulares intus glabri; corolla extus arachnoideo-floccosa, tubus gracilis, lobi patentes suborbiculares; stylus brevis bifidus; antherae perbreves lineari-oblongae.

Slender shrubs or small trees to 8 m. tall. Branches slender, terete, floccose but soon glabrescent, stipules narrowly triangular, 2.5-4 mm. long; leaves elliptic to oblanceolate-elliptic or oblong-elliptic, long acuminate, somewhat anisophyllous, lower surface obscurely arachnoid-floccose, soon glabrate, the blades 10-25 cm. long and 5-10 cm. broad, the petioles of a pair unequal, the longer ones to about 3 cm. long, obscurely floccose; the inflorescences terminal, spicate with numerous densely cymose clusters of flowers, 15-30 cm. long and 1-2 cm. in diameter; flowers pink to deep red; hypanthium floccose, to about 1 mm. long; calyx 4-lobate, the lobes narrowly triangular, reflexed at anthesis, glabrous within, about 0.5-0.7 mm. long; corolla red, arachnoid-floccose outside, the tube slender, 7-8 mm. long, the lobes spreading, suborbicular, 2-2.5 mm. long; style 4-5 mm. long, bifid; stamens inserted in the throat, the anthers included, linear-oblong, very small, about 0.8 mm. long; mature capsules subglobose, about 1.5 mm. long.

Guatemala: corolla blood red, shrub 5-8 feet tall, along Río Bonito, Dept. Izabal, alt. 30-150 m., Dec. 21, 1941, Steyermark 41682; shrub 15-20 feet tall, along Río Tameja, Dept. Izabal, alt. 50 m., Dec. 24, 1941, Steyermark 41812.

Honduras: corolla dark red, tree 15-25 feet, wet forest, Lancetilla Valley, Dept. Atlántida, alt. 20-600 m., Dec. 6, 1927-March 20, 1928, Standley 56885 (type, F).

Honduras: additional specimens, all from or from near the Lancetilla Valley, all at 600 m. or less, all from the Department of Atlántida, all in Field Museum Herbarium: Mitchell 61; Molina & Molina 25613; Standley 7292, 53321, 54195, 54927, 55260, 55298; Wilson 695.

This species is very closely related to Rondeletia gracilis, a species known only in the highland forests of Alta Verapaz, with which Standley had identified it. The leaves are prominently larger with fewer secondary nerves which diverge at a wider angle. The leaves are more prominently anisophyllous and the petioles much longer. The species is probably found near sea level while its relatives are from highland or montane forest regions.

RONDELETIA UROPHYLLA Standl. & L. Wms. sp. nov. - Arbusculae usque ad 10 m., ramuli teretes dense strigillosi glabrescentes, stipulae anguste lineari-lanceolatae. Folia longe caudata subaequalia, petioli strigillosi, laminae leviter arcuatae ellipticae aut lanceolatae glabrae vel subtus sparse strigillosae; inflorescentiae terminales paniculatae multiflorae; hypanthium pilosulosum perbreve; calyx sparse pilosulosum vel glabrum, lobi valde inaequales; corolla alba glabra 4-lobata, tubus angustus, lobi subaequales ovati vel ovoides. Fructus desideratur.

Shrubs up to 10 m. tall, the branches terete, densely strigillose with closely appressed pubescence, perhaps glabrous with age, the stipules narrowly linear-lanceolate from a broad base. Leaves of a pair subequal, long caudate, the strigillose petioles 5-15 mm. long, blades 15-22 cm. long and 5.5-7 cm. broad, somewhat arcuate, elliptic or lanceolate, narrowly long acuminate, with 8-10 pairs of secondary nerves, glabrous or sparingly strigillose on the veins below; inflorescence terminal, a thyrsoid many-flowered panicle about 15 cm. long and 5 cm. broad, shorter than or subequal to the subtending leaves, pilosulose; hypanthium pilosulose, about 2 mm. long; calyx sparsely pilosulose or glabrous, calyx lobes very unequal, the larger pair opposite, lanceolate, acute, with 3 nerves, about 4-5 mm. long and 1.5-2 mm. broad, smaller pair also opposite, narrowly elliptic, obtuse, 1.5-2 mm. long; corolla white, glabrous, 4-lobed, the tube narrow, about 10 mm. long, the lobes subequal, broadly ovate or oval, obtuse, about 3 mm. long; stamens inserted in the throat, included, the anthers linear, about 3 mm. long; style bilobate, the lobes linear, about 5-6 mm. long and the lobes about 2.5 mm. long; fruits unknown.

Costa Rica: flowers white, shrub 9 feet, Esquinas forest, alt. 30 m., August 3, 1951, Allen 6291 (type, F; EAP).

This species was distributed by us many years ago with the name now used. The plant appears under this name in Allen's "The Rain Forests of Golfo Dulce" on page 314, 1956.

The plant is a lowland species and so far as we know the only one in the region from sea level. It is distinctive by the long-tailed, large, elliptic or lanceolate glabrous leaves; the calyx lobes in two unequal pairs is unusual as is the completely glabrous corolla.